

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4223

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0008

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: GOL VIEWS US/EC RELATIONS UNDER IRISH PRESIDENCY

REF: STATE 01438

1. IN JANUARY 7 CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, MFA SECRETARY
GENERAL PIERRE WURTH ASKED HOW US VIEWED US/EC DIALOGUE
DURING IRISH PRESIDENCY. DRAWING ON REFTEL FOR
BACKGROUND, CHARGE EXPLAINED US OUTLOOK ON ROLE WE
TRUSTED IRISH WOULD PLAY TO REINFORCE US/EC COOPERATION.
WURTH COMMENTED THAT HE FOUND THE IRISH "UNNECESSARILY
NERVOUS" ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF ASSUMING THE EC PRESI-
DENCY. HE WAS HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY OF IRISH FOREIGN
MINISTER FITZGERALD AND THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE
IRISH MFA, AND SAID THAT THE IRISH WERE PERFECTLY CAPABLE
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OF MAKING SURE THAT A FRUITFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE US

AND EC WOULD CONTINUE. IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT THE PRACTICE OF WIDE-RANGING AND REGULAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE EC PRESIDENCY AND THE LOCAL US EMBASSY HAD STARTED IN PARIS, SO THE FRENCH COULD NOT BLOCK A CONTINUATION OF SUCH PRACTICE. WURTH ADDED THAT HE WAS SURE THAT THE IRISH WOULD DO A BETTER JOB THAN HAD THE FRENCH IN RELAYING SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND EC.

2. IN NOTING THE PASSING OF THE FRENCH EC PRESIDENCY, WURTH MENTIONED THE UNLAMENTED DEPARTURE OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES FROM THE EC COUNCIL CHAIR. GOL OFFICIALS FOUND SAUVAGNARGUES UNABLE TO MASTER TECHNICAL MATTERS, INSENSITIVE TO POLITICAL CURRENTS, AND OF "UN-FRENCH" CARELESSNESS WITH THE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD. FURTHER, SAUVAGNARGUES LAPSED INTO MOODS OF BOTH IRRITABILITY AND TOTAL BLINDNESS TO THE REAL PROBLEMS FACING THE EC. THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE THE LUXEMBOURGERS THE IMPRESSION OF BEING ISOLATED BETWEEN GISCARD, WHO IGNORES HIM, AND THE QUAI BUREAUCRACY, WHICH OPPOSES ANY DEVIATION FROM GAULLIST FOREIGN POLICY DOGMAS. THE LATTER PROBLEM MAY BE ALLEVIATED SOMEWHAT BY THE REPLACEMENT OF FRENCH POLITICAL DIRECTOR PUAUX, WHO WURTH DESCRIBED AS "UNFRIENDLY TO THE US".TARNOFF

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